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Summary record of the 3rd meeting

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Chairperson: Ms. Ogwu (Nigeria)
later: Mr. Metelitsa (Vice-Chairperson) (Belarus)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

General debate (continued)

1. **Mr. Sumi** (Japan) said that rising food and fuel prices were endangering the lives of the world's poor and that the recent turmoil in the financial sector had the potential to cause a worldwide economic downturn. Japan was eager to share its experience and knowledge with a view to finding a solution to the current global economic problems. In practical terms, it had already agreed to provide assistance totalling approximately \$1.1 billion in food aid and technical assistance to developing countries, particularly in Africa.

2. The High-level Event on the Millennium Development Goals, held on 25 September 2008, had sent a strong message about the need to remain on track towards the achievement of the Goals. Japan itself had placed the Goals at the top of its agenda, both at the Fourth Tokyo International Conference on African Development and at the recent G-8 Summit.

3. The key to ensuring effective delivery of the assistance required to meet the Goals was human security, a concept which involved both a multisectoral approach and a participatory approach. In order to further enhance human security, Japan had pledged an additional \$560 million to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria in the coming years and was also determined to step up its efforts to improve water cycle management in the developing world.

4. Despite their increasing economic growth and political stability, developing countries in Africa still faced major obstacles to achievement of the Goals. His country therefore stood ready to work with Member States and relevant agencies to help those countries overcome their challenges, particularly by promoting national ownership of development efforts, including efforts designed to accelerate broad-based economic growth, to ensure human security and to tackle climate change. To that end, it was essential to make full use of the resources and expertise of all United Nations agencies, particularly through system-wide coherence. While good progress had already been made, more efforts were required to deliver United Nations services to the people and communities in need as effectively as possible.

5. Japan was committed to performing a leadership role in the efforts to address climate change and, to that

end, had established a \$10 billion financial mechanism, known as the "Cool Earth Partnership". In addition to providing assistance to developing countries suffering from the adverse impact of climate change, Japan was also assisting developing countries that pursued economic growth policies compatible with emissions reduction. His delegation hoped that the Committee's deliberations would also play a catalytic role aimed at ensuring the success of the negotiations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

6. **Mr. McMahan** (United States of America) said that the current financial market turmoil could affect economic growth worldwide. The world was facing higher fuel and food prices, with the latter leading to a rise in food insecurity in a number of countries. It would now be necessary to bolster the development efforts of a number of developing countries in order for them to reach their development goals.

7. Despite ongoing attempts to move the Doha Round forward, the parties had still not reached an agreement. The forthcoming Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus would require intensive negotiations and a constructive dialogue in order for a consensus to be achieved.

8. The adoption in December 2007 of the Bali Action Plan by the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change had opened an optimistic and ambitious new chapter in the efforts to combat climate change. His delegation looked forward to a positive outcome from the negotiations at the session of the Conference of the Parties, to be held in Poznan in December 2008. Such an outcome must be environmentally effective and economically stable while also addressing all the elements in the Bali Action Plan.

9. In the current interdependent economic environment, any effective solution to global problems required the relevant stakeholders at all levels to do their part. In the multilateral system, efforts should be redoubled to reach an ambitious agreement at the Doha Round. It was also important to ensure a successful Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development that outlined the progress made, identified areas where more effort was needed and preserved the spirit of the Monterrey Consensus.

10. At the national level, countries needed to work even harder to create an enabling environment for sustained economic growth. His Government had taken unprecedented steps in recent weeks to stabilize the financial sector in the United States and was also debating the issue of appropriate regulatory reform to ensure long-term stability. The key challenge for many developing countries was to build on the reforms already in place in order to improve their business climates, reduce macroeconomic distortions and increase investment spending. A commitment to improving good governance was also critical.

11. Both developed and developing countries needed to act to advance development. Greater cooperation among them was also necessary to improve aid effectiveness, which was crucial to the success of development efforts. The United States valued partnerships with developing countries, as demonstrated by the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, which would provide \$48 billion over five years. Non-State actors also had a role to play in providing development assistance: foundations had become major foreign assistance partners and needed to be better integrated into the global system, while civil society needed to ensure that dissenting and underrepresented voices were heard.

12. The multilateral system could succeed provided that all countries worked together in a spirit of compromise. There were many reasons for optimism: member countries of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness had recently concluded an important agreement in Accra; all parties were actively engaged in the financing for development review process and were committed to increasing access to the promise of the Monterrey Consensus; the ministerial process in the World Trade Organization (WTO) was continuing with a sense of urgency; positive progress was being made in the current negotiations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; the United States and other donors had addressed food insecurity through a variety of processes; and successful high-level events had recently been held on Africa and on the Millennium Development Goals. The United States was committed to all those processes and his delegation believed that the Committee, in a genuine spirit of partnership and consensus, could make a positive contribution to addressing the global challenges ahead.

13. **Mr. Mansour** (Tunisia) said that there was general agreement among the international community that climate change and the food, financial and energy crises threatened to undermine past and future development gains; that development promoted balance and stability, since poverty was one of the root causes of global instability and tension; and that, despite some progress, the implementation of the international development agenda continued to be inadequate. What was required by the international community was therefore the necessary political will and adherence to the principle of human solidarity.

14. The current food and energy crises would require coordinated international action in the short-, medium- and long-term. Immediate needs had already taken precedence over medium-term plans and priorities had been redefined in line with the new socio-economic situation. The crisis would therefore clearly have an impact on the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

15. His delegation welcomed the proposal of the Secretary-General to hold a summit on the Goals in 2010, reflecting the limited results achieved to date and the need to mobilize the international community to do more. It also joined other delegations in calling for a follow-up mechanism to evaluate the implementation of the commitments made at the High-level Meeting on Africa's Development Needs, including those contained in the Ministerial Declaration adopted at the closure of the meeting.

16. The Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development provided an opportunity for the international community to take stock of the current situation, to agree on the measures to be taken and to explore other avenues for action. His delegation supported the idea of establishing a United Nations mechanism to monitor implementation of the Monterrey commitments, following jointly agreed procedures. The Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development should be a true turning point, consolidating achievements and creating new momentum in the process of financing for development.

17. Official development assistance (ODA) was the driving force behind any strategy for mobilizing national financial resources. However, despite the commitment of many countries to provide 0.7 per cent of their gross national product for ODA, the fall in

ODA in recent years threatened to further hamper progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. Innovative sources of financing should complement and not replace ODA. In that context, the World Solidarity Fund established by the General Assembly in 2002 should be made operational.

18. Measures to combat climate change should be integrated into both national development strategies and any international approaches to financing for development. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change should continue to be the main forum for climate change negotiations, and financing and technology transfer should continue to be central issues. It was important to diversify and increase sources of financing for the Adaptation Fund. However, measures to combat climate change should not have an adverse impact on development goals and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities should remain the basis of the Framework Convention.

19. The digital divide continued to reflect an ever-widening social and technology gap. To bridge that gap, the international community should follow up the conclusions reached in the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, held in Tunis from 16 to 18 November 2005, with a view to establishing an open, balanced and development-oriented information society.

20. *Mr. Metelitsa (Belarus), Vice-Chairperson took the Chair.*

21. **Mr. Tarragô (Brazil)** said that there had been a significant deterioration in the global economic outlook since the previous year. The unprecedented rise in world food and energy prices had been followed by the worst financial crisis since the 1930s, which risked turning into a worldwide economic recession. Developed and developing countries alike must therefore take steps to mitigate the most harmful effects of the crisis, particularly in the most vulnerable parts of the world.

22. Some of the institutions affected by the current crisis held prestigious positions and had taken on quasi-governmental roles, such as analysing, rating and assessing the fundamentals of entire economies. As unregulated institutions, they had adopted such dubious lending practice that default or Government-sponsored bailout schemes had been the only recourse. Given the gravity of the situation, a high-level debate to review

the international financial architecture and to re-examine global economic governance structures might now prove useful. The Economic and Social Council should also carry out its mandated role as part of the collective efforts to address the crisis.

23. The international community must strive to protect its financing for development commitments from the worst effects of the crisis. In that context, the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development would be an important occasion not only to reaffirm the Monterrey Consensus, but also to adopt an enhanced mechanism to follow up implementation of the agreed commitments.

24. The lack of progress in the Doha Round of trade negotiations was certain to compound the current situation. WTO members must therefore strive to remove the final obstacles to the successful conclusion of the negotiations. A successful Doha Round should include the elimination or substantial reduction of distorting barriers and subsidies to agricultural products so that developing countries could make full use of their export potential.

25. International action to address the threat of climate change should be concentrated on the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and should follow the guiding principles of the Kyoto Protocol concerning the greater historical responsibilities of developed countries and the greater vulnerability of developing countries. It was also important to recall the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

26. Brazil had demonstrated that biofuel production from energy-efficient crops, such as sugar cane, could be environmentally sustainable without contributing to the surge in international food prices or affecting levels of food production. An international conference on biofuels would be held in November 2008 in São Paulo to promote the benefits of such renewable energy sources. Brazil was also striving to reduce deforestation in the Amazon rain forest. It had proposed positive financial incentives in 2006 to reduce emissions caused by deforestation in developing countries and had also offered to host a 12-year review of the Rio Conference in 2012.

27. Brazil was committed to building a more equitable and sustainable world economy. To that end, it was important to mobilize financial and technical assistance through South-South cooperation. Brazil

particularly looked forward to the long-awaited opportunity to discuss that issue at the United Nations conference to be held on that subject in 2009.

28. The United Nations also had a crucial role to play in promoting technical cooperation through its operational activities. In that connection, his delegation stressed that the triennial policy review should mobilize all the specialized agencies of the United Nations and that the permanent involvement of developing countries in the review process was also critical.

29. **Ms. Stewart** (International Labour Organization (ILO)) said that, ILO had been warning of a crisis that affected around 2 billion people and was still impeding development efforts: the global employment crisis. According to the latest ILO report on global employment trends, economic turbulence could increase global unemployment by an estimated 5 million persons in 2008. The Committee should therefore keep in mind that sustainable development could not be achieved without placing the decent work agenda at the centre of development policies. Decent work for all was now a global goal, as acknowledged in many declarations and resolutions adopted at international and regional meetings, including the 2005 World Summit.

30. In June 2008 the tripartite partners of ILO had adopted the Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization. Good intentions were not enough, however; partnerships at all levels and coherent action among the organizations of the multilateral system would also be needed in order for the various internationally agreed development goals to be achieved. Such system-wide coherence could be facilitated by using the ILO Toolkit for Mainstreaming Employment and Decent Work, which, was proving to be a useful mechanism for multiple stakeholders, including Governments and United Nations country teams in the United Republic of Tanzania and Iraq, as well as various United Nations funds, programmes and agencies, to incorporate decent work strategies into their policies.

31. A weakening resources environment and decent work deficits made the Committee's task all the more challenging. Solutions could, however, be found through dialogue among partners and, in that regard, the decent work agenda of ILO, reinforced by the

Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization, offered a much needed unifying focus.

32. **Mr. Heller** (Mexico), speaking on behalf of the Rio Group, said that it had engaged in dialogue during the current General Assembly session with key actors in the global arena, including the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf, the European Union, the Russian Federation and Cuba, on a number of matters within the Committee's remit, among them financing for development, migration and sustainable development. It would continue to develop coordinated positions on those matters, among others, during the session.

33. On the subject of financing for development, the High-level Event on the Millennium Development Goals held on 25 September 2008 had highlighted the urgency of decisive action in support of those most in need, which necessitated progress in the creation of an effective global partnership for development. It was therefore important to take advantage of the political will generated by the Event to advance negotiations in a constructive and decisive manner and thereby ensure effective follow-up of the commitments made.

34. International migration, a key phenomenon in the context of globalization, was undeniably related to the growth, development and societal well-being of sending, receiving and transit countries alike. It should therefore be given particular attention in the Committee's work, especially since, according to the International Organization for Migration, there were now 191 million migrants worldwide. Follow-up to the 2006 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development should be regular, substantive and integrated, focusing on all factors that contributed to the phenomenon of migration.

35. Middle-income countries had special needs and required ongoing support from the international community in order to consolidate their development gains and avoid setbacks. The Group therefore welcomed the Assembly's recognition of the outcomes of the Madrid Intergovernmental Conference on Middle-Income Countries, the Second International Conference on Development Cooperation with Middle-Income Countries held in San Salvador and the Third International Ministerial Conference on the State of Middle-Income Countries held in Windhoek. That did not mean, however, that the needs of countries in other categories should be neglected. The Group's

solidarity with Haiti, its only least developed country member, was active and resolute and it also extended the same solidarity to other categories, such as the group of landlocked developing countries, which required urgent international support. In that connection, the Rio Group welcomed the adoption of the outcome document of the midterm review of the Almaty Programme of Action.

36. An outstanding issue for the current session was the need for the consensus adoption of a resolution convening a Conference on South-South Cooperation, to be held no later than the first half of 2009, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 62/209. South-South cooperation, though in no way replacing North-South cooperation, had proved to be an effective tool in international development efforts; it was therefore vital to update the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries in order to reflect the changes and developments of the past 30 years.

37. In the area of technological innovation, the Rio Group intended to make a positive contribution to the development and strengthening of regional cooperation by promoting regional scientific development and fostering transfers of technology with a focus on the production sector. In that regard, appropriate follow-up to the objectives of the World Summit on the Information Society was needed, particularly with regard to the implementation of policies aimed at developing a socio-economically inclusive information society.

38. Concerted action to promote sustainable development was particularly important in the light of current challenges including the international economic and financial crisis, rising food and energy prices, climate change and the need to preserve biodiversity. If appropriate action was not taken, the consequences could be devastating in economic, financial and, above all, human terms.

39. **Mr. Muburi-Muita** (Kenya), speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, expressed the Group's appreciation to the Secretary-General and the President of the General Assembly for convening the High-level Meeting on Africa's Development Needs. In the twenty-first century, the world had all the political, financial, economic and technological tools needed to create prosperity in Africa; what was lacking was the political will to take action. While in recent weeks

trillions of dollars had been spent in bail-out packages across the developed world, the same zeal had not been applied to meeting the target of doubling aid to Africa by 2010. According to current Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development statistics, ODA had in fact decreased. If the international community had fully implemented all the outcomes of major conferences and met its commitments, allowing Africa to access global markets by granting it full debt relief, making available transfers of technology and eliminating agricultural subsidies, the global economy would have been better able to cope with the current crisis. The African Group acknowledged the assistance provided by development partners and recognized that some progress had been made in areas such as the mobilization of domestic resources for development as well as in democratic governance, rule of law, protection of human rights and conflict resolution. However, Africa remained off track to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals, with a serious shortfall in the resources available to meet its development needs.

40. The African Group strongly believed that sufficient commitments already existed to put the continent back on track. The Doha Development Round was stalled not because of doubt about the potential of trade to drive growth and development but because of a lack of political will to implement the various commitments contained in global mechanisms such as the Monterrey Consensus. The African Group hoped that the importance of establishing a mechanism to follow up and monitor the implementation of commitments on Africa, as reflected in the political declaration on Africa's development needs, would be taken into account in the current and future sessions of the General Assembly.

41. While Africa was worse affected by the impact of climate change than any other continent, despite having made the smallest contribution to greenhouse gas emissions, the international community was unwilling to make the resources for adaptation measures unconditionally available. The impact of the current food and energy price crisis and the evolving financial crisis also needed to be put into perspective. It was estimated that the majority of the countries requiring international assistance as a result of the food crisis were in Africa. In addition, the financial crisis, if not urgently addressed, would also severely affect

other countries, particularly developing countries in Africa and other regions.

42. Bearing in mind that both the forthcoming Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development and the fourteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change focused on matters closely related to the work of the Second Committee, it was vital to ensure that the Committee's discussions and resolutions complemented and did not pre-empt the outcomes of those Conferences.

43. **Mr. Salam** (Lebanon), speaking on behalf of the Arab Group, said that the global economic crisis was threatening to reverse years of economic growth in developing countries and was putting the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, at risk. The Group was concerned by the decline in ODA for the second consecutive year and urged developed countries to adhere to the Monterrey Consensus, which stipulated that debt relief should not be counted as part of ODA. It was also concerned that failure on the part of the developed countries to fulfil their responsibilities with respect to climate change would threaten the Bali Road Map process and stand in the way of a satisfactory outcome to the 2009 Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. In addressing climate change, the three pillars of economic growth, social development and environmental protection should be accorded equal weight and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities should be adhered to. Concerted efforts were also necessary to address desertification and drought, which affected many Arab countries in particular, and sufficient funding needed to be provided for implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. Achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, was also severely threatened by the global food crisis; coordination between the Secretary-General's High-Level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis and other United Nations organs was vital.

44. The Group was concerned about the failure of the Doha Round negotiations and the appearance of new forms of protectionism that were impeding access of developing countries' exports to markets. It expressed appreciation to the State of Qatar for offering to host the upcoming Doha Review Conference. The Bretton

Woods institutions needed to be reformed to give greater representation to developing countries. South-South cooperation was not a substitute for North-South cooperation, and financial assistance provided through South-South cooperation should not be counted as part of ODA. Due attention also needed to be paid by the international community to the economic and social impact of foreign occupation, and in particular the measures imposed by Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory in flagrant violation of international humanitarian law, which prevented any progress there towards the Millennium Development Goals impossible.

45. **Mr. Churkin** (Russian Federation) said that, in view of the current world financial crisis and rising food prices, a fresh approach that took into account the interests of every group of nations was required to restore balance in the world economy and respond to global challenges.

46. The emerging crises clearly indicated that the current global governance system was incapable of meeting the challenges faced. Unilateral attempts by individual States to regulate the global economy and financial markets did not work, and it was vital for the international community to work together to reinvigorate the current system and create a new, fairer international financial system, with the participation of major world economies. Common rules of economic interaction, ensuring balanced treatment of all economies and thereby avoiding confrontation in international relations, should be collectively developed and new and flexible forms of collective leadership were required, based on reconciliation of mutual interests. Only through the creation of a stable architecture of international security, including economic security, could many of the current problems be solved.

47. Since clearly there was no reasonable alternative, at present or in the foreseeable future, to the global architecture based on the United Nations and the rule of international law, the United Nations could not disregard the global financial, energy and food crises that were jeopardizing progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. His delegation was ready to engage in constructive discussions on the priority issues of food and energy security and supported the leading role played by the High-level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis in addressing that crisis. Its Comprehensive Framework

for Action, together with the Rome Declaration on World Food Security, provided a solid basis for consolidating the efforts of the international community in that regard.

48. His delegation also supported the initiative by Belarus to organize a thematic debate on energy efficiency and energy conservation technologies and new and renewable sources of energy during the current session and the proposal of Turkmenistan to convene an international conference on energy transport security.

49. International cooperation on climate change was vital. Only with the participation of all countries, taking into account their capacity and their own emission levels, would it be possible to attain the ultimate objective of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which was to stabilize the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. Welcoming the outcomes of the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, his delegation was committed to active and constructive engagement in negotiations to establish an international climate regime for the post-2012 period on the basis of the Bali Action Plan.

50. Preparation for the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development was an absolute priority in the next two months and it was important to ensure that the Committee's discussions did not duplicate but rather supplemented and enriched the negotiations on the draft outcome document. The Committee's agenda and programme of work provided a good opportunity to discuss and adopt by consensus substantive decisions on important macroeconomic policy issues that, for various reasons, might not be discussed by Heads of State and Government in Doha. It might also be appropriate for the Committee to consider certain aspects and technical details of a number of issues on the Conference agenda, which would in no way lower the profile of those issues.

51. **Mr. Liu Zhenmin** (China) said that the global economic crisis was threatening to deprive emerging economies of their chance at development, widen the gap between North and South, and thus impede implementation of the Millennium Development Goals. Cooperation and prioritization were needed to address the threat. The consensus formed at the High-level Event on the Millennium Development Goals needed

to be translated into measurable progress in technology transfer and investment. The international financial system should be reformed to increase the representation of developing countries, and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) needed to address vulnerabilities in the reserve-currency countries that were affecting the entire system. A successful outcome to the Doha Round that curbed protectionism and addressed the concerns of the less developed countries would benefit all. Cooperation under United Nations coordination was necessary to create an integrated global food security system. Concerted efforts were also needed to achieve energy security, and meet environmental challenges on the basis of the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

52. As his country achieved further development, it would make greater contributions to South-South cooperation, along the lines of the measures which it had announced at the High-level Event on the Millennium Development Goals. After three decades of reforms, his country remained aware of the problems it continued to face, which included a large population, an uneven economic foundation and environmental pressures. It was adopting a scientific approach to development that emphasized economic growth while maintaining social harmony. It would continue to strike a balance between resource development and environmental protection, and follow a development path that would bring a higher standard of living to its people while also contributing to global prosperity.

53. **Mr. Wolfe** (Jamaica) said that the widening global gap between rich and poor was marginalizing developing countries as never before. His delegation welcomed efforts to strengthen the role of the Economic and Social Council through the launching of the Annual Ministerial Review and the Development Cooperation Forum, and attached great importance to the upcoming Doha Review Conference. Developed countries should be held accountable for their commitments regarding the internationally agreed development goals.

54. The classification of roughly half the States Members of the United Nations as middle-income countries on the basis of their per capita income masked the debt, poverty and inequality that those countries faced. He urged that a more systematic approach be taken, and in particular called on the international financial institutions to accord recognition to CARICOM as a special category of

small, vulnerable, highly indebted middle-income countries. His country supported the initiatives on middle-income countries that had emerged from the recent conferences in Spain, El Salvador and Namibia. He also noted the particular threat posed to his country by climate change, and expressed his country's support for the Bali Road Map and for the commencement of a second commitment period and a firm post-Kyoto agreement by the 2009 Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

55. **Mr. Butagira** (Uganda) said that the global downturn threatened to reverse the marked improvement recently shown by developing economies. In particular, the global food crisis was likely to wipe out progress towards achievement of the Millennium Development Goals made in sub-Saharan Africa, which needed food aid and monetary assistance in the short term, as well as investment, research and development to increase its agricultural productivity in the long term. Contract farming might return Africa to the colonial role of supplier of raw materials. Africa needed value addition that would lead to the export of manufactured foods while also meeting domestic food needs. In the long term, the factors that underlay persistent global imbalances would also have to be addressed.

56. The High-level Meeting on Africa's Development Needs, the High-level Event on the Millennium Development Goals and the High-level Meeting devoted to the midterm review of the Almaty Programme of Action had highlighted both the continuing relevance of the United Nations and the importance of United Nations reform. Reform of the international economic architecture was also needed to increase the participation of developing countries in decision-making. The commitment of the international community to poverty eradication, sustainable development and achievement of internationally agreed development goals had yet to meet the expectations of the developing countries. Decisive action, rather than business as usual, was what was needed from the Committee in order to address global challenges.

57. **Mr. Benmehidi** (Algeria) said that curbing the crisis currently roiling the international financial system required a joint effort of the entire international community, involving multilateral monitoring of macroeconomic policies in order to remedy global

imbalances and to combat the speculative practices which lay behind the present turmoil in the markets.

58. Globalization's contribution to integration of markets and world growth was undeniable, but at the same time it had led to marginalization for many developing countries, owing to the structural obstacles that it created. Despite their efforts to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, the results were mixed for a significant number of developing countries, particularly in Africa. The obstacles resulting from the global food and energy crises, climate change and the turmoil in the world of finance threatened to scale back considerably the development progress made so far.

59. The development agenda was dependent on establishing a global partnership for development. To that end, it would be beneficial if all the developing countries could play a role in the global economic policies by way of an equitable share in the decision-making process within the international financial and commercial institutions. The International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the World Trade Organization could not claim a universal mandate if they continued to operate on the basis of unchanged decision-making mechanisms which left little room for the developing countries. It was also important to consolidate and promote cooperation between those institutions and the United Nations by means of more qualitative approaches.

60. Much still remained to be done if the commitments made by the international community in the fields of official development assistance, trade, debt relief and access to new technologies and affordable essential medicines were ever to become a reality. To that end, the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, shortly to be held in Doha, would be the ideal opportunity for making a clearer evaluation of the progress so far in implementing the commitments undertaken and for examining solutions to the challenges emerging in the field of financing for development.

61. Algeria was pleased to see growing global awareness of the impact of climate change and the growing number of initiatives taken by the United Nations system to combat it. However, it also felt that

the matter should come, as in previous years, under the heading of sustainable development. Algeria was totally in accord with the principles behind the international campaign to save the planet, and shared the concerns underlying it, as a consequence of its own struggle with the phenomenon of desertification, one of the most threatening manifestations of climate change. The countries of Africa were in the troubling position of being both the most threatened by climate change and the most vulnerable to it. Their specific needs had to be met. It was to be hoped that the solutions and strategies to be examined at the forthcoming Poznan Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change would lead towards a consensus on the new regime for combating climate change in the post-Kyoto period starting in 2012, on the basis of the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities.

62. Algeria called for an integrated approach, with the aim of attaining sustainable development, an approach that must include adaptation, technology transfer, sharing of best practices and streamlining of the development mechanisms specific to the developing countries. Algeria was also in favour of constructive negotiations that could result in a consensus on the commitments relating to the reduction of greenhouse gases, to be decided during the next Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention in 2009.

63. **Mr. Shinde** (India) noted that the recent High-level Event on the Millennium Development Goals had revealed in stark detail the challenges facing development efforts. Falling official development assistance, net outflows of funds to developed countries, volatile capital movements, continued debt problems, trade-distorting agricultural subsidies by developed countries, non-tariff barriers, trade talks threatening the livelihoods of millions of poor farmers, non-inclusive international norm-setting frameworks and loss of policy space: all those factors only served to exacerbate the development challenges of developing countries.

64. The problems had been compounded by the ongoing financial crisis. A detailed examination needed to be undertaken, preferably by the United Nations, of the undeniable impact of the financial crisis on development efforts, particularly in respect of availability of capital, overall slowdown in global growth and shrinking export markets. It was to be

hoped that the Doha Review Conference would look at those issues in detail. The crisis had sent a message calling for change in financial regulatory systems, which also needed to take the international dimension into account.

65. Higher and more volatile prices of food, energy and other commodities had further compounded the problem. Against that background, there was a need to encourage growth, particularly in countries with large populations, as they had the potential to drive much-needed economic growth elsewhere in the world.

66. The financial crisis had also clearly demonstrated the importance of policy space. Regulators in developed countries had the luxury of trying out a variety of tools to address financial problems. Developing countries, when faced with similar financial difficulties in their own economies, should also have the choice to select from such policy tools as might be useful in their specific circumstances. In the past, international financial institutions, particularly the Bretton Woods institutions, had limited the choice available. Recent developments made it even more important that sufficient policy space be available to developing countries, not in order for them to renege on international commitments but to ensure that, when they were faced with crises, all possible intervention mechanisms were available to them.

67. Clearly, a radical change in the international financial architecture at large could be brought about only through a comprehensive review. Such a review must ensure greater voice and participation for developing countries, particularly in the Bretton Woods institutions. The United Nations, which had the requisite legitimacy, must regain its traditional role in guiding international economic policy. The present trend had to be reversed of hollowing out the United Nations by first creating specialized entities and then arguing that they could not be overseen by the Organization.

68. All agreed that climate change called for an extraordinary effort and collaboration. However, the developing countries did not see that urgency reflected in the attitude of their partners. Instead, the usual approach continued. Efforts to review the intellectual property rights regime, so that critical climate technologies could be considered as benefiting humankind rather than just a few innovators, were blocked; attempts were made to ignore historical

responsibility. The negotiations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change must be guided by the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, as well as the historical responsibility of developed countries. The outcome must recognize the principle that each citizen of the world had equal entitlement to the global atmospheric space. India had already unveiled an ambitious National Action Plan on Climate Change, and made a commitment that, even as it pursued economic growth, its per capita greenhouse gas emissions would not exceed those of the developed countries. Further, the recent opening of international civil nuclear cooperation with India would have a positive impact on global energy security and on efforts to combat climate change.

69. The Human Development Report had consistently shown that a reasonable measure of human development was achieved only after national average electricity consumption exceeded some 3,000 kilowatt-hours per person per year. In India, the average electricity consumption was well below that figure, at only about 650 kilowatt-hours per person per year. The energy challenge facing India and other developing countries was large, urgent and immediate. Every household had to be given access to adequate and affordable electricity. India was fully conscious of the need to employ strategies ensuring that energy was used cost-effectively, and that the proportion of sustainable and renewable energy was constantly increased. Those strategies brought in their train the benefits of economic competitiveness, enhanced access, and better environmental quality, besides the very strong side-benefit of climate change mitigation.

70. India had completely overhauled the institutional arrangements of its electricity sector so as to create independent regulators and to allow competition in electricity generation. That had lowered the price of electricity procured through competitive bidding. India had also obliged each electricity distribution company to procure at least a certain percentage of electricity from renewable sources, leading to the creation of about 11,000 megawatts of renewable electricity generation capacity.

71. Today, India was one of the most energy-efficient countries in the world, with only about 0.15 kilograms of oil-equivalent energy being required to produce one dollar's worth of gross domestic product in purchasing power parity terms. In order further to enhance

efficiency, India had introduced standards and labelling of appliances; an energy conservation building code for large commercial buildings; and a system of energy reporting and auditing for energy-intensive industry. Through those and other demand-side management interventions, India was moving towards securing energy savings of at least 5 per cent, relative to 2007, by 2012.

72. **Ms. Blum** (Colombia) observed that the slowing-down of the world economy, the rising trend in food and commodity prices, and the increasing intensity of natural disasters having to do with climate change were having a severe impact just when the world was at the halfway point of the time allotted to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Given such an evident crisis, the Second Committee should analyse it as a matter of priority. The General Assembly should examine the repercussions of the situation on the different areas of development.

73. The food security problem demanded special attention. The Committee should take advantage of the momentum generated by the High-Level Conference on World Food Security held in Rome, promoting intensification of discussions and agreements and following up on the implementation of actions by the United Nations system. In particular, the Committee should pursue the actions related to the Comprehensive Framework for Action developed by the High-level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis under the leadership of the Secretary-General.

74. Additionally, analysis was needed of the energy-related aspects of the food problem: the impacts of the increase in oil prices on the cost of transportation and basic inputs for food production. Although the rise in fuel prices had somewhat slowed recently, the issue still needed to be addressed from a structural and long-term international perspective.

75. There was a need for a significant and effective outcome with respect to the Monterrey Consensus, one that went beyond reaffirmation of the commitments undertaken in 2002 and responded to the challenges posed by the current world economic situation. Various aspects should be fully covered in the outcome of the Doha Conference: regulation of the financial and capital markets in all countries; mechanisms to provide emergency liquidity during crises and avoid excessive accumulation of risk; development of an effective follow-up mechanism; and implementation of

additional measures to confront illicit capital flows, including those used to fund terrorism.

76. There were sometimes attempts to change the course of discussions taking place in the context of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol through annual resolutions of the General Assembly, either by referencing only partially the agreements reached at the Conference of the Parties, or alternatively by exceeding their scope. Yet the value of the work of the Second Committee should be measured by its capacity to promote the autonomy and independence of the Convention and the Protocol as the main forums for addressing the various aspects of climate change. The Committee should take advantage of the progress achieved the previous year in Bali, which had provided a clear road map; it could not afford the luxury of creating parallel agendas.

77. Recent decisions in the Committee on operational activities for development had advanced the search for greater effectiveness and capacity of the United Nations to respond to the priorities of recipient countries. There was a need for a system focused on national capacity-building that would serve as a catalyst for more predictable, transparent and results-oriented international cooperation.

78. In the field of international cooperation, Colombia stressed the importance that middle-income countries had gained in the new development architecture. Their role as recipients and providers of cooperation was evident, as had been recognized in the High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, held in Accra. Middle-income countries were also facing challenges resulting from situations of poverty and inequality, making official development assistance essential. Colombia stood ready to support initiatives that would allow tangible progress in that regard.

79. In recent years Colombia had achieved outstanding progress in development, building on three pillars: security based on democracy, investment with social responsibility and creation of social cohesion on the basis of freedoms. It had achieved sustained economic growth with rates that had exceeded 5 per cent in the past three years; advances in social matters; and accelerated progress towards fulfilment of the Millennium Development Goals.

80. Concerned about the impacts that the international economic environment might have,

Colombia reaffirmed its ongoing willingness to participate actively in a dialogue on the issue, on a constructive and cooperative basis that would serve to promote collective efforts leading towards economic and social development.

The meeting rose at 5.40 p.m.